

Amendment to the Specification:

1. Please insert the following paragraph on page 1 of the Application before "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

PRIORITY BENEFIT AND CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This Application is a Divisional Application of the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, the National Phase Application, filed July 29, 2003, of International Application No. PCT/US02/02562, filed January 29, 2002, which application claims priority benefits to United States Patent Application Serial Nos. (1) 60/264,784, filed January 29, 2001; (2) 60/272,903, filed March 2, 2001; (3) 60/316,501, filed on August 31, 2001; and (4) 60/316,521 filed August 31, 2001, all of which
10 are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. Please strike the paragraph of the Abstract et al. and replace it with the following:

15 The present invention incorporates new processes for blending derivatized carbon nanotubes into polymer matrices to create new polymer/composite materials. When modified with suitable chemical groups using diazonium chemistry, the nanotubes can be made chemically compatible with a polymer matrix, allowing transfer of the properties of the nanotubes (such as mechanical strength) to the properties of the composite material as a whole. To achieve this, the derivatized (modified) carbon nanotubes are physically blended with the polymeric material, and/or, if desired, allowed to react at ambient or elevated temperature. These methods can be utilized to append functionalities to the
20 nanotubes that will further covalently bond to the host polymer matrix, or directly between two tubes themselves. Furthermore, the nanotubes can be used as a generator of polymer growth, wherein the nanotubes are derivatized with a functional group that is an active part of a polymerization process, which would also result in a composite material in which the carbon nanotubes are chemically involved.